

## PUZZLING SCRAWLS.

SIGNATURES THAT EXPERTS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO DECIPHER.

The Chirography of Public Men—Bank Cashiers' Names—Contour, and Not Letters, the Key to Mysterious Signatures—Forgeries.

(Cor. New York Sun.)

"I think it's Simmons," said the signature expert of the treasury, as he laid aside the magnifying glass and wiped his eyes with his silk handkerchief. He had for half an hour been examining a curious scroll on the back of a check. It consisted of a black stroke of a pen, tapering off to an irregular line, and was there to represent the name of some bank cashier.

"There is not a letter in it," he said, holding it up to the light, "but it means Simmons."

"Do you have many of that sort?" "Worse than that. Five or six hundred different signatures pass through here in a month, maybe, and two-thirds of them are illegible. Bank cashiers seldom make any letters in their signatures. They adopt a certain form of scroll, generally, and always use it for their signature. Some of them are very curious. This, for instance, and he took from a drawer a paper across which was scrawled a character that looked like a schoolboy's sketch of a whirlwind. The line had been spun around and around in one piece like a spiral spring, then shot across the paper about half an inch, when the gyration was again repeated, and this was followed by another dash and some more circles.

"That," said the expert, "is the signature of the cashier of one of the New York banks. Of course there are no letters in it, but we know what it means, and could swear by it at any time. I wouldn't want a better signature. But if you want a longer one, here it is," and he handed out another draft.

FROM MARGIN TO MARGIN.

"The length to this," he said, "is regulated by the width of the paper on which it is written. It ways extends from margin to margin. It consists, you see, merely of high up-and-down strokes, perfectly pointed at the top, and all of about the same height. Again you have no name at all. It is simply the sign of a name, but it is just as good for us. It is always the same, and, as simple as it may seem, I don't think it could be counterfeited. Here is another with the same pointed strokes, but there are fewer of them, and the signature is higher than it is long. But there is one signature we get on checks principally which is more remarkable than either of these. The letters are all the same height, and will reach from top to bottom across the face of a check. At first glance nothing can be made of it, but if you follow the line carefully you can unravel the name, and you will be surprised at its plainness. Each letter is perfect in itself, but is so tall and narrow that at first glance you don't comprehend what it is.

"We come across some very curious signatures, and some mighty bad ones. Those of Ben Butler and Horace Greeley are famous for their ugliness, but they would fall into insignificance alongside of the scrawls that pass through here on drafts and checks.

NOT LETTERS BUT CONTOUR.

"How do you make them out?" "Generally the contour suggests the name though no letters may be formed. Sometimes I know a name at first glance, when, if I try to analyze it I am thrown off the track entirely. Probably once or twice we have had to write to find out what a name was, but generally, when they are too much for me, the register of the banks will give the name. When we come across a new signature that is particularly hard to make out, we make a record of it, so that whenever we see that same combination of odd characters we know what it stands for.

"Is a bad signature a sign of ignorance?"

"By no means. The worst signatures are those of educated men, generally bank officials. They are always written freely and quickly. Write your name as fast as you can and see what it looks like. That's the way it's done. These men have to write their names so often that they get to making the quickest combination of characters possible, and adopt it as their signature.

FORGERIES.

"What is the easiest signature to forge?"

"One that is extremely bad or remarkably good. Spinner used to write the worst signature of any man in this department. Yet there were a dozen clerks who could counterfeit it so perfectly that no one could tell the difference. The perfect Spencerian signature, however, is the easiest to imitate. One of the best American signatures I have ever seen is that of the new treasurer, Jordan. It is beautiful to look at—clear and legible as engraving—but I don't think it could be counterfeited. He can write his name quicker than any man I ever saw. Assistant Secretary Fairchild and Third Auditor Williams write their names well, too.

"The most ponderous signature I ever struck was that of Drake De Kay, who was assistant adjutant general under McClellan. When he signed letters and papers of various kinds they used to be spread out on the floor, where the sun would strike them to dry. This is a fact I don't know what he used to write with, but I think it was a stick."

"Do you ever come across any forgeries?"

"Yes, but the large majority of them are innocent. They grow out of ignorance. Sometimes checks come in with a man's name signed to them, and when we come to look over the papers in the claim against which the check is drawn, we find he can't write at all and has used a mark only. Then, of course, we know there has been a forgery. The man who is generally turned out that the man has had some one sign his name for him, and the parties have been led into a forgery innocently."

Rendering the Watch-Dog Harness.

(Chicago Times.)  
Burglars have hit upon a plan by which the heretofore watch-dog is rendered harmless. They take along with them another dog, and on arriving at the premises to be robbed, turn him loose. Of course the watch-dog, seeing a strange dog, stops to ask him what is the news, and while the two sagacious animals are exchanging information the burglars go in and get the silver.

Longest Tunnel in the World.

(Chicago Times.)  
Eight thousand men are engaged on the thirty-one mile tunnel stretching from Croton lake to the reservoir in Central park, New York, and which, when finished, will be the longest tunnel in the world. It will have cost by that time anywhere between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000.

Quite a Saving.

The American drummers have agreed not to pay sleeping car porters gratuities any more. It is calculated that this will make a difference to the aggregate of porters of \$5,000,000 a year.

Less than one-third of the earth and dobs that covered Pompeii so long remains in place.

## Advertisements.

## ANOTHER TEST.

Messrs. W. B. Wilshire & Co., Agents  
MACNEALE & URBAN SAFES, 206  
California Street, San Francisco, Cal.:  
Gentlemen—In reply to your inquiry concerning the opening of the Burglar-Proof Chest in the safe of the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court—now so well known as

## The McCarthy Safe.

I will say that I took charge of the office on Wednesday, the 6th instant. For some days previous, unsuccessful attempts had been made by various experts to pick the lock. On Thursday, further similar efforts were made with the same result by Mr. Ensign and other noted experts. ALL OF WHOM FINALLY DECLARED THAT THE LOCK COULD NOT BE PICKED, and that the safe must be opened by force.

On Friday I employed the expert of one of your competitors, who did faithful and honest work for that purpose. On Saturday morning work was begun, and this morning (Wednesday), FOUR DAYS AFTER, the expert succeeded in drilling through the door and opening the safe.

I consider it was an extraordinary severe test, much beyond what a burglar could possibly employ under any circumstances, and can assure it has inspired me with the highest confidence in the security of your Burglar-Proof Safes, AND THAT YOUR LOCKS ARE PICK PROOF AGAINST THE BEST EXPERTS.

After working for some hours on the lock, one expert said that he had found that I was one letter, and another that C was one. On examination, neither of these letters appeared in the combination. Yours, truly,  
J. D. SPENCER,  
Clerk of Supreme Court,  
San Francisco, January 13, 1886.

The above was a Macneale & Urban No. 8 Fire & Burglar Safe.

C. O. BERGER,  
1m General Agent, Hawaiian Islands.

## Wm. G. Irwin &amp; Co

## OFFER FOR SALE

## Sugars.

DRY GRANULATED—  
In Barrels,  
Half Barrels,  
And 30-pound Boxes.

CUBE—  
In Half Barrels  
And 25-pound Boxes.

POWDERED—  
In 30-pound Boxes.

GOLDEN C. (COFFEE)—  
In Half Barrels  
And 30-pound Boxes.

## Teas.

ENGLISH BREAKFAST,  
JAPAN,  
OOLONG,  
POWCHONG

## Soap.

BLUE MOTTLED,  
FAMILY LAUNDRY.

## Salmon.

CASES 1-B TINS,  
CASES 2-B TINS,  
HALF BARRELS,  
BARRELS.

## Flour.

FAMILY (a quarter sack),  
Baker's Extra (5/8 half sack)

## Cases Medium Bread.

## Lime and Cement.

MANILA  
And  
SINAL CORDAGE.

## Reed's Felt Steam Pipe and Boiler Covering.

25 "A" TESTS, (suitable for camping and surveying parties.)  
112 1/2

## EUREKA!

We have received a consignment of the most economical and valuable feed for all kinds of stock, viz.:

## COOKED LINSEED MEAL.

It is the greatest flesh former, Milk and Butter producer in use.

Oil Cake Meal shows about 27 per cent. of nutritive matter; this nearly 39 per cent.

100 lbs. of this meal is equal to 300 lbs. of oats, or 315 lbs. of corn, or to 767 lbs. of wheat bran.

For Sale in Lots to Suit.

Also, our Unrivalled MIXED FEED, as well as our usual supply of the best kinds of

Hay, Oats, Wheat, Corn, Etc., Etc.

LAINE & CO.

12 1/2

## Advertisements.

## E. E. MAYHEW,

## Contractor and Builder,

86 Hotel Street, Honolulu, H. I.,  
(Opposite Fashion Stables).

P. O. BOX 315. BELL TELEPHONE 33.

All work in my line faithfully done. Plans and specifications made. Jobbing in all details done at short notice. Good work and low charges is my motto.

For Sydney and Auckland.



The new and fine A1 steel steamship

## "ALAMEDA,"

Of the Oceanic Steamship Company, will be due at Honolulu from San Francisco on or about

February 20th.

And will have prompt dispatch with mails and passengers for the above ports.

For freight or passage, having SUPERIOR ACCOMMODATIONS, apply to

Wm. G. Irwin & Co.,  
AGENTS.

INTER-ISLAND  
Steam Navigation Co.  
(LIMITED.)

STEAMER W. G. HALL,  
(MALULANI.)

BATES,.....Commander  
Will run regularly to Malaea, Maui, and Kona and Kau, Hawaii.

STEAMER PLANTER,  
(LILIOE.)

CAMERON,.....Commander  
Leaves every Tuesday at 5 p. m. for Nawiliwili, Kona, Eleele and Waialeale. Returning, will leave Nawiliwili every Saturday at 4 p. m., arriving at Honolulu every Sunday at 5 a. m.

STEAMER IWALANI,  
FIERMAN,.....Commander

Will run regularly to Hamoa, Maui, and Kukulalele, Honolulu and Paumotu, Hawaii.

STEAMER C. R. BISHOP,  
MACAULEY,.....Commander

Leaves every Friday at 8 a. m. for Waialeale, Oahu, and Hanaelei and Kilauea, Kauai. Returning, leaves Hanaelei every Tuesday at 4 p. m., and leaving at Waialeale and Waialeale Wednesday, and arriving at Honolulu same day.

STEAMER JAMES MAKEE,  
WEIR,.....Commander

Will run regularly to Kapa, Kauai.

T. R. FOSTER, President.  
J. EKA, Secretary. 73-apr-1y

WILDER'S STEAMSHIP CO.,  
Limited.

STEAMER KINAU,  
(King, Commander.)

Leaves Honolulu as per following schedule, touching at Lahaina, Malaea, Makana, Mahukona, Kawahine, Laupahoehoe, Hilo and Keauhou; Commencing on MONDAY, October 12th, and thence on the first Monday following the arrival of the "Alameda" and "Mariposa," on the 8th and 22d of each month.

The steamer Kinau will make the VOLCANO TRIP, reaching Keauhou on Wednesday morning, giving tourists two days and two nights at the VOLCANO HOUSE.

When the 8th and 22d of the month fall on Monday, the Kinau will leave that day.

TICKETS FOR THE ROUND TRIP TO THE VOLCANO, FIFTY DOLLARS, WHICH PAYS ALL CHARGES.

The Kinau will arrive in Honolulu Sunday mornings on Volcano trips. On Hilo trips, will leave Honolulu on Tuesdays, and return Saturday morning.

PASSENGER TRAINS will connect with the Kinau at Mahukona.

The Kinau will touch at Honolulu and Paumotu on down trips from Hilo for passengers if a signal is made from the shore.

STEAMER LIKELIKE,  
(Lorenzen, Commander.)

Leaves Honolulu every Monday at 5 p. m. for Kanaakakal, Kahuili, every week; Hilo, Hana and Kilauea, Kilauea, Mokuaia and Sun every other week. Returning, will stop at the above ports, arriving back Saturday mornings.

\* For mails and passengers only.

STEAMER KILAUEA HOU,  
(Welsbach, Commander.)

Will leave regularly for Paumotu, Kohala, Oahu, Kilauea, Honolulu, Laupahoehoe, Hana and Oahu.

STEAMER LEHUA,  
(Davies, Commander.)

Will leave regularly for same ports as Kilauea Hou.

STEAMER MOKOLII,  
(McGregor, Commander.)

Leaves Honolulu each Monday at 5 p. m. for Kanaakakal, Kahuili, Pukoo, Lahaina, Lanai, Moenui, Hailawa, Waialua, Pelekuni and Kahupapa. Returning, leaves Pukoo Friday 7 a. m. for Honolulu, arriving Saturday morning.

\* The Company will not be responsible for any freight or packages unless receipted for, nor for personal baggage unless plainly marked. Not responsible for money or jewelry unless placed in charge of the Purser.

All possible care will be taken of Live Stock, but the Company will not assume any risk of accident.

SAMUEL G. WILDER, President.

OFFICE—Corner Fort and Queen streets.

69-1y Mar 30

## Advertisements.

## Chemically Pure.—AMBER SOAP—Chemically Pure.

## Don't be a Clam

and be satisfied with inferior articles, just because you have used them for years. Wake up and look around, and see what are the latest and best soaps in the market.

We know that you have been using soaps for washing and cleansing purposes manufactured from soapstone, pitch and diseased fats, that give all kinds of diseases, such as

itch and salt rheum, and make the skin full of pimples. You did not know that these diseases were the result of

impure soap being used in washing your clothes. We know you did not. You thought that your blood was out of

order, and you have been trying to rid your system of its impurities by taking all kinds of medicines, and at the same time the system has been absorbing poisons from

your clothes being washed with impure soaps. The "AMBER," Washing and Cleansing Soap is Chemically Pure, and it is the ONLY chemically pure soap in the market. It is manufactured from a recipe endorsed by the highest medical authorities as a Pure Soap.

FOR SALE BY ALL GROCERS.

Chemically Pure.—AMBER SOAP—Chemically Pure.

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## Advertisements.

## M. W. McCHESNEY &amp; SON

— HAVE RECEIVED —

May 8th—Per Mariposa, 1,754 Packages;

May 22d—Per Alameda, 1,922 Packages;

To Arrive—Per Consuelo, 332 Packages.

## ASSORTED GROCERIES,

— WHICH —

Will be Sold at the Lowest Market Rates.